

Religious, Moral And Philosophical Studies — Intermediate 1

Notes of Guidance for Teachers/Lecturers on the Assignment

The Assignment at Intermediate 1 will be planned and conducted under supervision, written up under controlled conditions (with a one hour and thirty minutes time allocation) and will be externally assessed. It will be 400-800 words in length. Teachers/lecturers must ensure candidates choose an issue from within the Units that they have studied in the RMPS course. **Candidates will be penalised if their issue is not from within a Unit of the RMPS course.** Appended to these notes are exemplars which conform to the requirements, to assist teachers/lecturers in advising candidates as to the general nature of appropriate issues.

1 Introduction: The Assignment

The Assignment component of the Intermediate 1 course in RMPS is intended to develop the skills of working with complex sources and the exercise of the skills required in structuring a sustained presentation of conclusions.

2 The External Assessment of the Assignment

A total of 16 marks will be available for the Assignment. A Plan, of no more than 200 words, will be completed by the candidate at a time decided by the teacher/lecturer and used for reference by the candidate in writing up the Assignment. The Plan must be submitted along with the completed assignment, but the mark allocation will be based solely on the quality of the Assignment. Candidates will however be penalised if they exceed the 200 word limit for the Plan. The allocation of marks to each aspect of the Assignment is given below, along with an indication of the features involved.

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|------------|---|------------------|
| <i>i</i> | <i>Identification and retrieval of information</i> | (4 marks) |
| | appropriateness and clarity of stated aim | |
| | identification of a variety of sources | |
| | a selection of relevant information from sources | |
| <i>ii</i> | <i>Analysis and evaluation</i> | (8 marks) |
| | some analysis and evaluation of information | |
| | consideration of different viewpoints | |
| | identification of areas of agreement and disagreement | |
| <i>iii</i> | <i>Orderly presentation of assignment</i> | (4 marks) |
| | clarity in overall structure of assignment | |
| | a personal opinion with supporting reasons | |

3 **Assessment and the Corresponding Qualities Required**

The following notes indicate the qualities required in candidates' Assignments in order to attain marks at various points in the range available. It should be noted, however, that an Assignment falling into a particular marks category may not necessarily meet every aspect of the description given for that category.

An Excellent Assignment

In this category an Assignment has an appropriate and clearly stated aim which is valid in terms of the syllabus. It has been thoroughly researched and a variety of relevant information has been identified. The material researched has been well understood and a number of aspects of the area of study have been evaluated and analysed. The overall structure and progression of the Assignment is excellent and in all respects the work is first class.

A Good Assignment

In this category an Assignment has an appropriate and clearly stated aim relevant to the syllabus. It has been well researched and a range of relevant information has been identified. However, analysis of the information is incomplete and, although a valid conclusion is presented, evaluation of some aspects of the study may be lacking. Overall structure and progression of the Assignment is of a good standard and in general it is a commendable piece of work.

A Satisfactory Assignment

In this category an Assignment has a clearly stated aim relevant to the syllabus. It has been reasonably well researched, but the material gathered, although relevant, may be presented in a descriptive manner indicating that it has not been fully interpreted and understood. A conclusion to the Assignment is presented but evaluation of certain aspects of the area of study may lack depth and contain weaknesses in research and/or analysis. However, it is a satisfactory piece of work.

A Poor Assignment

In this category an Assignment lacks a clearly stated aim relevant to the syllabus, has been inadequately researched and shows significant gaps in the retrieval of information. It is weak on analytical skills and gives little evidence of evaluation. The overall structure and progression of the Assignment is poor and the conclusions are weak for an Assignment.

Assignment Exemplar Issues

The following is a set of exemplar topics which would be appropriate for study in accordance with the RMPS course. **It is emphasised that these are examples only, provided as guidance to teachers/lecturers in the task of advising candidates on their proposed issues.** Examples are selected in such a way as to reflect the possibilities for this aspect of the RMPS course. Staff are reminded that candidates must choose an issue related to the Units of the course that they study. Some of the following exemplar topics are similar to Higher and Intermediate 2 for the benefit of multi-level teaching.

Making Moral Decisions

- i Should we be allowed to interfere with the beginning of life?
- ii How far is the practice of arranged marriages compatible with modern society?
- iii To what extent can we ensure human rights for people in every corner of the world?

The Nature of Belief

- i Is there a huge difference between scientific and religious beliefs about the origins of the universe?
- ii To what extent are humans religious in our modern society?

Justice in the World/Religion in the Social World

- i Should Christians regard protecting the environment as a duty?
- ii To what extent are 'coming of age' ceremonies still important today?
- iii How far can the Church support the modern family?

Candidates must submit their Plan, which must not exceed 200 words, on the Pro forma provided. Candidates may present their Plan in what they consider the most appropriate manner, eg in note form, in a spider diagram format. **Candidates must not submit a 'mini essay' in place of a Plan** and it should be noted that marks are likely to be deducted from their Assignment if the Plan exceeds the stated length of 200 words.

The declaration at the end of the Pro forma must be read and signed by the teacher/lecturer responsible.

Religious, Moral And Philosophical Studies — Assignment

Chosen Issue

List of Sources

The aims of my investigation are:

Viewpoints on this issue

For

Against

My opinion on this issue is

Word Total

I attest that:

the candidate has developed the Plan shown

the candidate made adjustments as appropriate to the Plan

As a result of the research exercise:

the candidate researched a variety of resources

the candidate will produce the essay under controlled conditions

Signed _____

Date _____